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NSC BRIEFING

13 October 1960

CONGO

- I. Although power struggle in Leopoldville remains stalemated, Army Chief Mobutu finally appears to have committed himself to try to secure Lumumba's arrest.
 - A. US ambassador on 12 October called situation in Leopoldville "very serious" and believed force would be used unless UN permitted peaceful service of arrest warrant.
 1. Reported nearly 1000 Congolese troops around Lumumba's house guarded by Ghanaians, Sudanese, Moroccans and Tunisians.
 - B. Following UN's refusal to yield Lumumba on 11 October, government spokesman threatened "nationwide uprising" if Lumumba not surrendered.
 - C. Mobutu likely to move slowly on any appeal to populace, however, in view his rival's demonstrated spellbinding capability.
 - D. UN statement that Lumumba could be surrendered only if parliament were to withdraw his parliamentary immunity may prompt Mobutu to reconvene parliament, whose members have lately been critical of Lumumba.
 1. UN chief Dayal favorably disposed towards Lumumba, suspicious of any trace of Western influence in Congo, and apparently willing preserve present political stalemate.
- II. Active support for Lumumba from Ghana, Guinea and the UAR has counterbalanced to some extent a fall in Lumumba's domestic prestige.

State Department review completed

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III. Although press attention centered on Leopoldville, situation in Katanga also serious.

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- A. Anti-Tshombé tribesmen appear in control large areas of northern Katanga, and have committed numerous anti-European depredations. Tshombé has criticized UN for failing give his troops free hand in putting down disorders.
- B. Tshombé under pressure from anti-Belgian elements within Conakat party, and has lately attacked Brussels for failing to grant Katanga diplomatic recognition.

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